

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 are pending in the present application.

The Examiner has required election in the present application between:

Group I, claims 1-3, 7-11, 19-23, 24, and 26, drawn to an error correction method using a cubic error location polynomial for identifying error locations from roots of the cubic error location polynomial; and

Group II, claims 4-6, 12-18, and 25, drawn to an error correction method using a quadratic and a quartic error location polynomial for identifying error locations from roots of the quadratic and the quartic error location polynomial.

For the purposes of examination of the present application, Applicants elect Group I, claims 1-3, 7-11, 19-23, 24, and 26. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to file a divisional application(s) for the non-elected claims.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Appl. No. 10/018,955

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Richard Anderson", is written over a horizontal line.

By

D. Richard Anderson, #40,439

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